

1975

Scott. The Homestead Resort was the new name chosen for the refurbished complex in 1952, which included additional hotel accommodations, horse-back riding, fishing, and many other facilities.

In 1986 the current owners, Great Inns of the Rockies, purchased the Homestead Resort with the object of making it a true, year round destination resort. The addition of an 18-hole championship golf course, convention facilities, and expanded accommodations, as well as a full line of winter sport activities helped make this objective possible.

The large 55-foot crater at the Homestead Resort has always been a source of keen interest since the 1850s, but a revolutionary idea in 1996 made it totally accessible for the first time. A 110-foot tunnel was drilled into the crater's north side allowing its warm 96-degree waters to be explored by scuba divers, snorkeling enthusiasts, and therapeutic swimmers alike.

#### Warm Springs

Midway resident, David N. Murdock owned a hot springs resort at the mouth of Pine Canyon in 1895. His journal description reads:

"At this resort there was a big plunge bath, a smaller private bath, and eight good dressing rooms, a large dance hall and eating

places. Also living quarters, kitchen, dining room, and bedrooms. All were built under one big roof. However, the dance hall had windows to keep the dancers cool and comfortable. An orchestra was kept there during the summer months. Dances were held each week and on holidays. The grounds were prepared for ball games, horse races, croquet and other games, with swings and other play places for the youngsters. An omnibus ran from Provo for special celebrations. Perhaps the biggest crowd came out to see a big balloon ascend on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July."

#### Buhler's

Fred Buhler's Hot Pots were more centrally located in Midway and were used by the townspeople as a place for baptisms. These baptisms were carried on for new members of the LDS Church and for those whose records were lost. Sometimes this work was carried on throughout the entire day. The water in these public baths was very hot and well remembered by those swimming there.

During a recent interview, Earl Kohler recalled his experiences at Buhler's Hot Pots: "If you were to drive straight north on 200 West in Midway you'd run into a fence. There is a private lane there now and a house up on the hill. There is also a house just below



wheels can still be found along the trail between Trial and Star lakes. They impounded the lakes that are still popular fishing holes today, and controlled the spring run-off of the Provo River. The 11,000 foot Murdock Mountain, at the side of Bald Mountain Pass high above the Mirror Lake Basin is a fitting tribute to Dave and Will Murdock.<sup>13</sup>

Dave recognized the potential of the "hot pots" at Midway as early as 1894 when he opened the Warm Lands Resort near the mouth of Pine Canyon. He described his resort in a journal entry. *"At this resort there is a big plunge bath, a large dance hall and eating place, kitchen, and dining room, all under one roof. Dances are held every week. The grounds are prepared for ball games and horse races, while the lawns have swings for youngsters."*<sup>14</sup> Dave was ahead of his time, but today his foresight is preserved by the fine tourist accommodations and golf course built at the same location where he established the valley's first resort.

While Joseph was kept busy both day and night with his mail route, helping his sons with their ranches, working his own farm, caring for his own large family and dodging federal marshals, he somehow lost control of Ab, Pernetta's son Alma. More Indian than white man, Ab had been allowed to run free and wild, working for Al on the reservation or helping Pick at the White Rocks Trading Post or just living with his Indian brothers.

Ab was young and reckless, and like many young men feeling his oats, would try to get away with anything he could. Stacy Murdock recalled that even Al wasn't exempt from Ab's wild and wooly ways. *"Al was always very poor pay, he would pay a man in hay, grain, meat, or almost anything but cash, but once Ab got the best of him. Al's cattle brand was four bars, but sometimes he branded only three bars as a road brand until the stock was sold to some buyer. Once he branded quite a large herd with his road brand, and Ab went into Heber on the quiet and registered the three bar brand in his own name. Ab then took a buyer out to the reservation and sold him the herd, claiming it was his own. Al was*

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13. High Uintas Hi, Pg. 243, Roy Lambert, 1964.

14. Interview with David N. Murdock, WPA Writer's Project, Utah State Historical Society.